

as the upper epidermis, had been eaten. I kept this leaf in a sealed container, at first in a cool place, and from January in a warm room. A specimen of *Strophedra nitidana* emerged on 27th February, 1984. Early unconfirmed records for this species in Lancashire, Westmorland and Cumberland, detailed in *British Tortricoid Moths* Vol. 2, by Bradley, Tremewan and Smith (1979), are therefore probably authentic. — E. F. HANCOCK, Abbotsford, Belmont, Ulverston, Cumbria.

**HYPSPYGIA COSTALIS F. (LEP.: PYRALIDAE): THE IMAGO IN NOVEMBER.** — Amongst several *Nomophila noctuella* D. & S. and *Autographa gamma* L., taken from my actinic light trap here in Stroud on 3rd November 1983, was a single specimen of *H. costalis* in fresh condition. This very late date prompted me to glean through my past records of the species, where I find that the latest date previously recorded in the county, at light, is — Stockend Wood, near Stroud, three at light on 2nd September 1978. Could the former record therefore be indicative of a possible second emergence? — M. N. McCREA, 3, Blockley Cottages, Middle Street, Uplands, Stroud, Glos., GL5 1TQ.

**MODERN DISPERSAL OF THE EUROPEAN SKIPPER: THYMELICUS LINEOLA OCHS. (LEP.: HESPERIIDAE).** — In July 1977 I was working in the northern part of the lower peninsula of Michigan. I had driven many miles and, as it was mid-afternoon, decided to pull over onto the grass, tape my correspondence and take a short walk. I had purchased two cans of Coca Cola, and drank one as I dictated my reports. The day was hot so I left my windows down as I left the auto for a walk to search the scrubby low growth, that abounded in the area, for larvae.

After approximately one half hour of unsuccessful search but a pleasant walk, I returned to my automobile. To my surprise I found no less than fourteen *T. lineola* imbibing from some "Coke" that was on the top and side of the empty can on my dashboard. I had noticed a few *lineola* on my walk, but certainly nothing of a population explosion.

Northern lower Michigan, with its unspoiled scenery and lakes, is a tourist spot in the summer. On that particular afternoon, by casual observation, I counted license plates for twelve different states. Because of the popularity of campers and caravans, it would not seem improbable that a tourist from, say Kansas, could pick up some adults in his trailer, take a long day's drive home, and accidentally release them there. The species does seem to be engaged in a relatively rapid spread in recent years. — CHRISTOPHER A. YOUNG, M. A. 15874 Alexander, Livonia, Michigan 48154, U.S.A.

**EARLY OCCURRENCE OF BISTON BETULARIA L. (PEPPERED MOTH) IN THE WILD.** — I noted a single example of this moth at light here in Stroud on 20th April 1983, and in 1982 observed

it in the same locality as late as 31st August. Although the text books indicate it as being univoltine, I wonder if there is not occasionally a second generation. — M. N. McCREA, 3 Blockley Cottages, Middle Street, Uplands, Stroud, Glos GL5 1TQ.

CYPHOSTETHUS TRISTRIATUS F. (HEM.: ACANTHOSOMATIDAE) ON CYPRESS IN E. SURREY. — A single specimen of this handsome shield-bug (green marked with red), formerly thought to be confined to juniper, was found by my friend Dudley Collins sunning himself on a Lawson cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) in his garden at Carshalton Beeches on 25.vii.77, and is now in my collection. It was kept alive for some time during which it was seen to feed on the green cones of the cypress and apparently also the shoots. There was no *Juniperus* nearby from which it might have strayed, unless in an adjacent garden. Since finding the bug, Mr. Collins has kept a constant look-out for further examples in any stage on the tree, but so far without result, though a second one occurred inside a window of the house on Christmas Day last.

There are several records of *C. tristriatus* from *Chamaecyparis* and *Cupressus*, mostly *lawsoniana*, in recent years, including the occurrence of a colony on that host near Farnham in west Surrey (Carter and Young, 1974, *Ent. mon. Mag.*, **109**: 180); but the present one relates to the other side of the county, almost within the metropolitan area, where *Cyphostethus* cannot be at all common to-day because of the drastic reduction of our native juniper in those parts. It is opportune, therefore, that the insect is now transferring its attention to a host of which there is a limitless supply in the suburban districts. Lawson cypress in one form or another is excessively common in the gardens and parks of this part of S. E. London (Charlton), and perhaps the bug may eventually come to be a familiar object upon it. — A. A. ALLEN.

ISLE OF CANNA, 1984: THE PEACOCK RETURNS. — For the first time since 21 September 1961 *Inachis io* L. has been seen here; this occurred during a minor heat wave between 29 April and 5 May, on 1 and 4 May. Another surprise was finding a *Nomophila noctuella* D. & S. on a heather-clad knoll about half a mile west of my house on 4 May. I cannot remember ever having seen *noctuella* here so early. The same unusual spell of weather produced several worn Small Quaker *Orthosia cruda* D. & S. in the mv trap, the first record for Canna. A Pine Beauty *Panolis flammea* D. & S. was in the trap on 29 April, the first since 3 June 1971.

Since 5 May there has been plenty of sunshine here, but with clear nights and northerly winds. The complete absence of gales in May has favoured the trees by leaving the young foliage unblasted. The Small Tortoiseshell butterfly has been unusually common; many hibernated specimens were released from buildings. — J. L. CAMPBELL, Isle of Canna, Hebrides, 5.vi.84.